

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-9, 11, 13, and 14 are currently being amended. Claims 15-18 are being added. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added by the claim amendments and new claims.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

In the Office Action, a new title was required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. By this Amendment, Applicants have changed the title to one that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 as being indefinite. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 8 to delete the term “a specific field intensity measurement point.” Applicants have also amended claims to make the term “magnetic field attenuating member” consistent throughout the claims. Lastly, claims 2, 4, 9, and 11 have been amended to delete the term “if” from the claims. Applicants therefore submit that claims 1-14 are in conformance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 and request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 6, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Watanabe et al. (U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0186991). Claim 1 recites that an image forming apparatus comprises a heating member which includes a conductive member containing a coil for, when supplied with a voltage and current of a specific frequency, producing a magnetic field of a specific magnetic field intensity and generating heat by the magnetic field supplied from the coil, a cover which covers the image forming apparatus and houses the heating member, and a magnetic field attenuating member which is placed between the heating member and the cover, and which is capable of attenuating the magnetic field intensity of the magnetic field passing through the magnetic field attenuating member.

Watanabe discloses that an induction heating apparatus comprises a coil unit 10 for generating a magnetic field, a heating roller 11 heated by the coil unit 10, and a holder 12 (¶ [0041]). The coil unit 10 includes a core 16 formed of magnetic material and an induction coil 18 that generates the magnetic field for heating the heating roller 11 by inducing electrical current in the heating roller 11 (¶ [0041]). As shown in Fig. 2, a magnetic flux plate 31, which partially blocks the magnetic flux radiated from the induction coil 18 toward the heating roller 11, is positioned between the heating roller 11 and the induction coil 18 (¶ 0058). As shown Fig. 6, a magnetic flux plate 32 is also positioned between the heating roller 11 and the induction coil 18. Thus, the magnetic flux plates 31 and 32 are both positioned inside of the heating roller 11.

In contrast to claim 1, Watanabe fails to disclose or suggest a magnetic field attenuating member which is placed between the heating member and the cover. Rather, as discussed above, the magnetic flux plates 31 and 32 of Watanabe are placed inside of the heating roller 11 and therefore cannot be placed between the heating roller and a cover which covers the image forming apparatus and houses the heating member. In fact, since Watanabe only discloses the structure for a heating apparatus and not an image forming apparatus, Watanabe necessarily fails to disclose or suggest a cover which covers the image forming apparatus and houses the heating member, as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentably distinguishable from Watanabe. Claims 6 and 7 are also patentably distinguishable from Watanabe by virtue of their dependence from claim 1, as well as their additional recitations.

Claim 1 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sano (JP 10-91019). As shown in Figs. 1 and 4, Sano discloses that a fixing roller 16 includes a core 18, a coil 19, a thermistor 20 and a shield member 21. As shown more clearly in Fig. 4, the shield member 21 is located within the fixing roller 16.

Thus, like Watanabe, Sano fails to disclose or suggest a magnetic field attenuating member which is placed between the heating member and the cover. Rather, as discussed above, the shield member 21 of Sano is placed inside of the fixing roller 16 and therefore cannot be placed between the heating roller and a cover which covers the image forming

apparatus and houses the heating member. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentably distinguishable from Sano.

Lastly, claims 2-5 and 8-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Watanabe in view of Imai et al. (U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0190060). Like Watanabe, Imai et al. fails to disclose or suggest a magnetic field attenuating member which is placed between the heating member and the cover. Accordingly, even if combinable, claims 2-5 are patentably distinguishable from the combination of Watanabe and Imai et al. by virtue of their dependence from claim 1, as well as their additional recitations. Claims 8-14 are patentably distinguishable from the combination of Watanabe and Imai et al. for reasons analogous to claim 1.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 11/14/05

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